

INDIANA COLLECTION  
Hammond - Churches

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

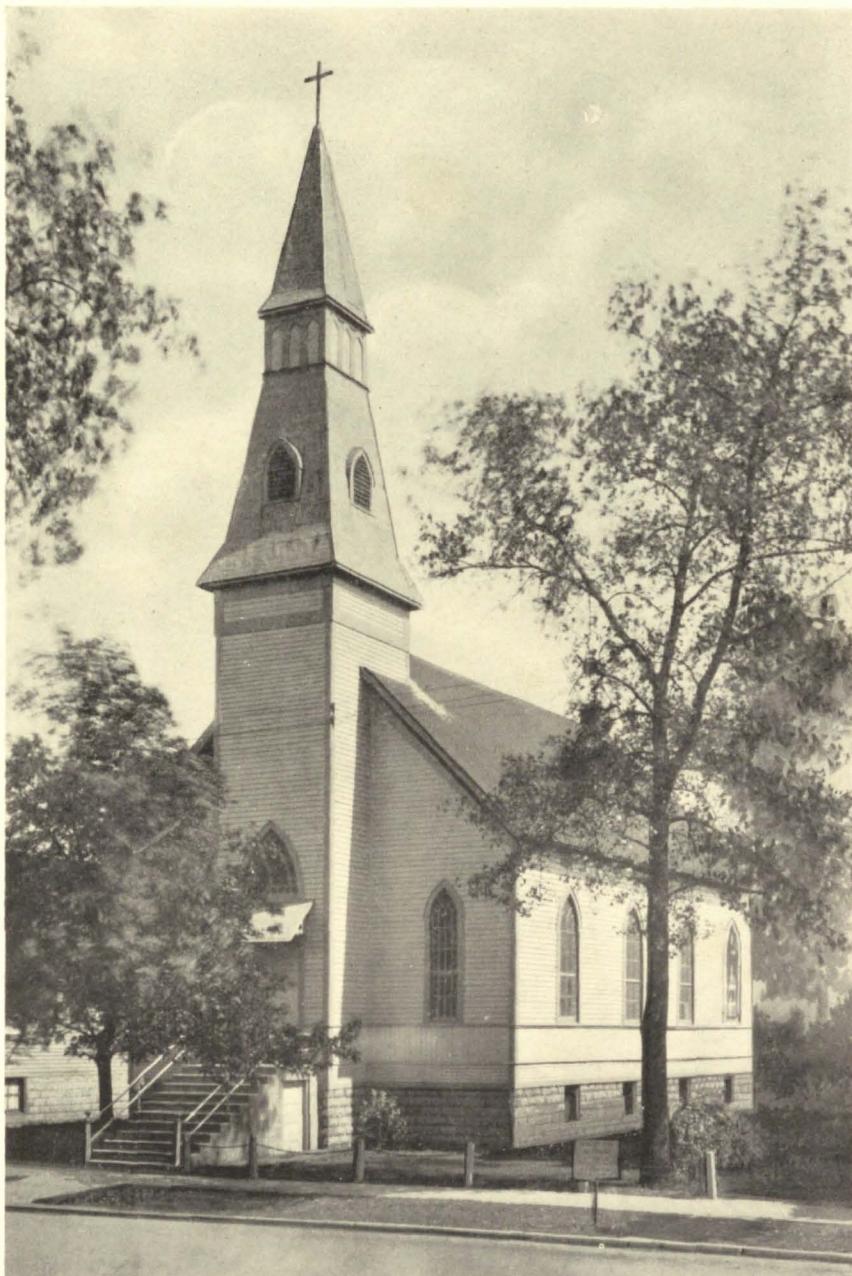


Fiftieth Anniversary

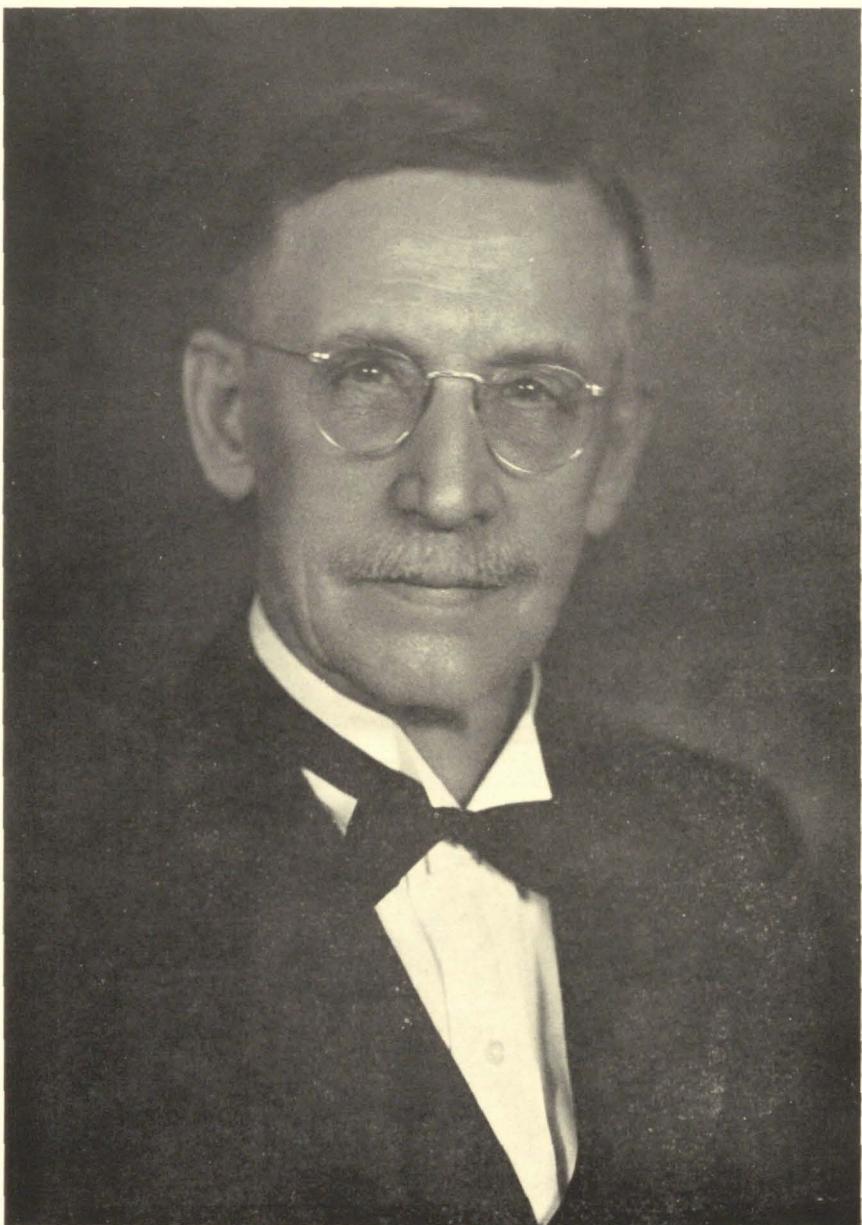
of

St. John's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church

HAMMOND, INDIANA



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Towle Avenue  
HAMMOND, INDIANA



REV. WM. A. BRAUER  
Pastor Since 1889

*History*  
of  
**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
North Hammond, Indiana

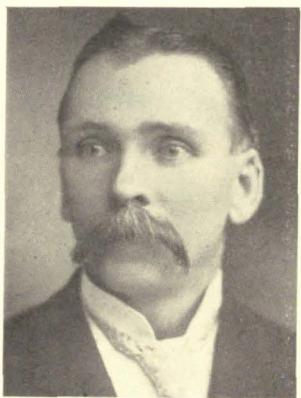
The history of the congregation dates back to the time when Hammond was in its infancy, an incorporated town of about two or three thousand inhabitants. Its only industry was the Hammond Packing Company, where many German immigrants found employment.

Through the faithful missionary work of Pastor Wunderlich of St. John's Lutheran Church, Tolleston, the German Lutheran families of this territory were gathered and organized into St. Paul's congregation at South Hammond. Her first pastor was the Rev. P. G. Luebker, who served the congregation from 1880 to 1889.

In 1888 the members of St. Paul's living north of the Calumet River requested their release for the purpose of organizing a new congregation at North Hammond. This request was cheerfully granted. On May 26, 1889, the congregation was organized in Prahlow's Hall on Hohman Street and named "The German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation, U. A. C." Sixteen men signed the constitution. The first officers were:

President .....	Carl Schwingendorf
Secretary .....	Henry Grieme
Treasurer .....	Louis Norman
Elders .....	Charles Warmbier, Wm. Leimbach
Trustees .....	Hermann Jaeger, Henry Lohse
Collectors .....	Bernhard Jaeger, Albert Tangermann

A resolution was soon passed to build a house of worship. Mr. M. M. Towle, a realtor, presented to the congregation three lots, each 25x120 ft., on Towle Street, between the Wabash Railroad tracks and Gostlin Street. A frame building, 34x50 ft. with an 80 ft. steeple, was built at a cost of \$1,680. About \$1,000 of the incurred debt was paid through the contributions of the members and liberal gifts of friends. After the building was completely furnished with pulpit, altar, pews, a reed organ in the balcony and a large bell in the steeple, it was dedicated on November 10, 1889 (Luther's birthday). Two services were held, in one Pastor Niedhammer of LaPorte, and in the other Pastor Lange of Valparaiso, were the speakers. Pastor Herzberger of St. Paul's Church at South Hammond officiated at the dedicatory exercises.



ADOLPH LIST, 1892-97

As pastor the congregation called the Rev. Wm. A. Brauer of Appleton City, Missouri. Since the congregation at that time was too weak to support a full-time man, the call also included all pastoral duties at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hegewisch, Illinois. On the third Sunday in Advent, 1889, Pastor Brauer was inducted into his office in the two congregations. His aged father, Pastor Ernst Brauer of Crete, Illinois, and Pastor Herzberger, officiated at both services.

Pastor Brauer's duties also included teaching the Christian Day School. As this work could not be carried on in the church building, a school house, 20x36 ft., was erected. It was dedicated on February 3, 1890. Instructions began with only six pupils, but after a year that number was increased to sixty.

As official acts of the pastor often caused an interruption in the teaching, it was decided to call a full-time teacher. Mr. Adolph List of Hancock, Michigan, accepted the call and was installed on the 13th Sunday after Trinity, 1892. After two years the pupils numbered almost 100 and it became necessary to build an annex to the school building. The classes were then divided and the pastor taught the three lower grades. In the fall of 1897, after five years of faithful service in both church and school, Mr. List accepted a call to a school in Chicago. It was not until the spring of 1898 that the congregation was successful in obtaining Mr. R. Dorn from Varna, Illinois. In addition to his duties in the school, he also directed a mixed choir and a men's choir, which had been organized by Mr. List.

In 1896 Trinity Congregation called their own pastor and Rev. Brauer, being released from his duties at Hegewisch, was able to concentrate all his efforts in behalf of St. John's Congregation. The Sunday School, which had been conducted since 1891 by Mrs. Brauer on Sunday afternoons, was now taken over by the pastor. He introduced the custom of "Christenlehre" or instructions in Luther's Catechism. After a number of years, however, these instructions were discontinued in the afternoon and, in order that the entire congregation



OSCAR HEINTZ, 1901-04

might be benefited, they were made part of the Sunday morning service.

In the autumn of 1899 the little flock was able to celebrate its tenth anniversary with praise and thanks to God, who so graciously had led, protected and blessed it.

The congregation grew and the Lord blessed the work, when in October, 1901, the only industry, the Hammond Packing Company, was entirely destroyed by fire. In consequence many families left Hammond and dark days followed for the congregation. The number of pupils also decreased to such an extent that teaching was continued by Mr. Dorn alone and the second room was closed.

In 1903 a parsonage was built north of the church building. This building also included a room for the instruction of confirmation classes.

In the same year the congregation, in conjunction with five neighboring congregations, resolved to have a cemetery of their own. Incorporated as the Concordia Cemetery Association of Hammond, they purchased twenty acres near the boundary of the city, on Calumet Avenue and dedicated it in October of that year.

As the congregation had received a number of favors from Synod in the first years of its existence, she was finally persuaded to follow the example of its pastor and teacher by applying for membership in the Central District of the Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States. She was accepted as a member at Synod's convention in 1905.

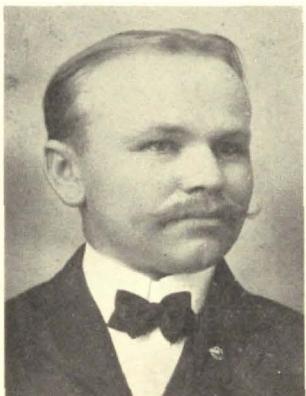
In 1908 the congregation was greatly benefited by an interurban railroad, which was built between South Bend and Chicago. As their right-of-way passed through the two lots occupied by the church and school, it became necessary to move these buildings. For only one and one-half lots the congregation received \$2,500, which enabled her to buy three lots north of the parsonage, move the two buildings, improve them with concrete block foundations, and



CARL ARNOLD, 1911-23



PAUL SCHUELKE, 1905-11



RICHARD SIEGEL, 1911-23

add to the church a spacious basement for a furnace, coal bins, etc.

In the autumn of the turbulent year 1914, when the World War began, the congregation celebrated her 25th Anniversary with two festival services. The speakers for this occasion were the pastor's brother, the Rev. A. Brauer of Beecher, Illinois, and the Rev. H. Hicken of Kouts, Indiana.

In the spring of 1918 it became necessary to enlarge and improve the school building. An additional lot was purchased and during the summer months this work was undertaken.

The two class and cloak rooms were enlarged and a basement added, which included room for heating and toilet facilities, as well as a room where the different societies and confirmation and Sunday School classes could meet. The total cost of this program was approximately \$4,500. Special dedicatory services were held September 15, 1918.

With the World War came the propaganda against the German language, and it became necessary to discontinue the use of German as a means of instruction in the school. In the spring of 1922 the first English service was held. For three years these services were held only once a month, then twice a month. In 1930, however, it was decided to have the so-called "Double Header" namely, German and English services every Sunday morning. All midweek and evening services, as well as funerals, have since been conducted in the English language.

In November, 1929, the 40th Anniversary was celebrated. The speakers were Pastor Geo. Schutes, Dr. Walter Bauer and Dr. Wm. Dau, all of Valparaiso, Indiana.

#### CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL FACULTY

The history of St. John's Christian Day School shows many changes in the faculty. Mr. Dorn served only three years, and in 1901 accepted a call to Milwaukee. His successor was Mr. O. M. E. Heintz, who also stayed only three years, accepting a call to Ft. Wayne in 1904. After Mr. Heintz



ARNOLD BATHJE, 1926-31

left, a vacancy followed and the pastor was obliged to instruct the children until 1905, when Mr. Paul Schuelke of Decatur, Illinois, came to the school. Mr. Schuelke labored faithfully for six years, organized and conducted a brass band, and was instrumental with the mixed choir to have a pipe organ installed in the church. In 1911 Mr. Schuelke also left for Ft. Wayne.

In 1902 the second class room was again opened where the lower grades were taught by the following: Miss R. Feiertag, 1902-1907; Miss H. Brauer, 1907; Mr. E. Glave, 1908; Mr. Rosenwinkel, 1909; Mr. Theo. Fruend, 1910.

In 1911 Mr. R. A. Siegel and Mr. C. A. Arnold, both of Ionia, Michigan, were called as teachers of the upper and lower grades respectively. Both men were inducted into their office on the 18th Sunday after Trinity. Mr. Siegel resigned early in 1923 and was succeeded by Mr. John Sedory. In June, 1924, however, Mr. Sedory was discharged for neglect of his duties. In October, 1923, Mr. Arnold also resigned on account of old age and his classes were taken over by Pastor Brauer. Mr. Arnold continued his stay with the congregation until the Lord called him on October 26, 1931, at the age of 91 years. Mr. Sedory's classes were conducted by student pastor Walter Bauer until Mr. A. Bathje, a young teacher out of office, offered his services. The school had suffered to such an extent and the number of pupils decreased that classes in the second room were discontinued and Mr. Bathje was

temporarily engaged to take over all grades. His work proved satisfactory and he was installed as a permanent teacher in September, 1926. The increase in pupils was such that it became necessary to call a second teacher for the lower grades. Miss Hulda Vollrath served in 1927 and 1928; Mr. R. Merkle in 1929; Mr. Walter Mueller in 1930 and 1931; Mr. E. Eggers in 1932. In August, 1933, Mr. Walter Mueller was again called as teacher for the lower grades, and he is serving the congregation to this day. In September, 1931, Mr. Bathje accepted a call to Bellwood, Illinois.



WALTER MUELLER, 1933-



ALFRED KOESTER, 1931-

## OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION, 1939



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: F. Bleck, Rev. W. A. Brauer, R. Siegel,  
B. Siegel.

MIDDLE ROW: E. Freese, H. Frieske, M. Freese, W. Tangerman, G. Rosenau.  
BACK ROW: H. Vonder Here, J. Wolff, H. Schlueter, A. Prahlow.

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Mr. Alfred Koester of Centralia, Illinois, was called and inducted into his office in November, 1931, and is also with the congregation to this day.

At the present time the school has eight grades and is fully accredited. It meets all the requirements of the modern educational standard. Its graduates enter the High School without examination and do commendable work.

### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

From 1891 to 1905 Sunday School was held every Sunday afternoon. After that instruction in Luther's Cathechism was made part of divine services every Sunday morning. When the English work had progressed in church and school, the need for regular organized work was keenly felt. With Mr. Bathje supervising, the work

was begun, and when Mr. Koester was called, his call specified this work. By resolution of the voters he was made Superintendent and Mr. Erwin Freese Asst. Superintendent. Since January, 1932, the Sunday School has been efficiently conducted every Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 and has grown from 22 to 110 children. They are taught by ten teachers in six different departments. The contributions for 1938 were \$258 compared with \$136 for 1932. In connection with the Sunday School a Cradle Roll Department is maintained. Its present enrollment is 28 infants. The Sunday School has been and it is hoped will also in the future be a recruiting station for the Day School.

### THE SOCIETIES

The oldest society is the Ladies' Aid, which was organized December 18, 1892, by Emily Brauer, the Pastor's wife. The purpose of the society has always been to cultivate Christian sociability, aiding the needy, beautifying the church property, and assisting the congregation in every way possible. Great blessings have emanated from this society these forty-seven years. Many dollars have been given to support the work of the congregation and to aid benevolences. St. John's Church will ever be grateful to the Ladies' Aid for its valuable services. The following have been members the past forty-seven years: Eva Bleck, Emily Brauer, Berendine Lohse, Mary Prahlow, and Hermine Schwingendorf.

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### OFFICERS OF ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION IN 1914



## LADIES' AID SOCIETY, 1939



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: K. Fandrei, A. Bohnstengel, E. Brauer,  
M. Klemsman, P. Pomplin, F. Smedley.

MIDDLE ROW: E. Dickowski, A. Wiens, M. Vonder Here, C. Hoepnner,  
A. Freese, M. Prahlow, B. Lohse.

BACK ROW: C. Krueger, C. Wolff, M. Rippe, Adele Freese, R. Prahlow,  
E. Mickow, M. Schleuter.

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In 1909 the pastor founded the Young People's Society. On June 1, 1919, this society became affiliated with the International Walther League, and has since been carrying on the work of this organization. In addition to educational programs, Bible study, athletic activities, they help in the support of the Lutheran Sanitarium at Wheat Ridge, Colorado, decorate the church every Christmas and spread cheer by carolling. The bi-weekly church paper, "The Reminder," is also published by the Senior Walther League. The Seniors enjoy the supervision and leadership of Mr. Walter Mueller. The Junior Department was organized in the fall of 1921 and joined the Walter League November 24, 1922. The Juniors, too, are taking part in every phase of Walther League work and are under the able guidance of Mr. Alfred Koester.

The Mothers' Club was brought into existence through the efforts of Mrs. Wm. Rippe on June 10, 1928. Its main purpose is to work for the welfare of the Christian Day School. During the course of the past eleven years many generous contributions have been made and much has been done to improve the school and its equipment.

St. John's Congregation has had male choirs and mixed choirs during practically the whole of the fifty years. At the present time a mixed choir of twenty-five voices is beautifying the services. The director is Mr. Alfred Koester and for the past ten years Miss Anna Rippe has been the able accompanist.

The Men's Club was organized on November 10, 1928. Its object is to foster Christian fellowship and sociability among the

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#### SENIOR WALTER LEAGUE, 1939



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: F. Siegel, L. Hennig, L. Boyer, G. Vonder Here, E. Siegel.

MIDDLE ROW: P. Klaus, C. Koenig, F. Bender, Elmer Warmber, P. Hanneman,

BACK ROW: H. Vonder Here, W. Mueller, R. Awe, T. Hansen, W. Schweiger.

## JUNIOR WALTHER LEAGUE, 1939



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: R. Kessler, H. Koenig, P. Rose, A. Leimbach,  
E. Paul, E. Rosenwinkel, D. Koenig, J. Rosenwinkel.

MIDDLE ROW: M. Boyer, R. Fandrei, B. Willig, L. Hanneman, A. Siegel,  
S. Siegel, L. Zarndt, M. Schleuter.

BACK ROW: J. Paul, T. Fandrei, H. Frischbutter, R. Fandrei, G. Krueger,  
H. Hansen, A. Koester.

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members, increase and promote knowledge among the members in doctrinal and practical subjects, and to advance and further the interest of the local congregation and the church at large.

The Missionary Endeavor Society was organized October 17, 1935, and is a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor Society of the Central District of Synod. Its meetings are held four times a year and its purpose is to become acquainted with all mission work carried on by Synod, and to assist financially in mission work carried on in the Central District.

## MISCELLANEOUS

1909: The reed organ, which had served the congregation for twenty years, was replaced by the present pipe organ, at a cost of \$625.

1917: During the war our people acquired Liberty Bonds amounting to \$10,450.

1926: The monthly envelope system was introduced in the church. On Christmas the first candle light service was held at 6:00 A. M.

Through the efforts of the Senior Walther League the old pews were replaced by new ones at the cost of \$170.

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## MOTHERS' CLUB, 1939



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: K. Fandrei, L. Mueller, B. Koenig, E. Rose,  
C. Kessler.

MIDDLE ROW: P. Awe, A. Siegel, A. Leimbach, M. Vonder Here,  
E. Zarndt, C. Krueger.

BACK ROW: L. Rosenwinkel, L. Schroeter, L. Hanneman, M. Leimbach,  
G. Willig, E. Koester, M. Schleuter.

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ENDEAVOR, 1939



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: L. Mueller, M. Vonder Here, A. Freese, K. Fandrei.

MIDDLE ROW: A. Mickow, R. Prahlow, M. Prahlow, B. Schweiger, A. Warmber, E. Koester.

BACK ROW: C. Wolff, A. Freese, E. Frieske, L. Rosenwinkel, E. Mickow.

1930: It was resolved to conduct all voters' meeting in English

1937: The original constitution was revised and translated into the English language.

1938: The pastor's fiftieth anniversary in the ministry was celebrated with Dr. Behnken as speaker.

### IN CONCLUSION

In reviewing the past fifty years, we must confess with Jacob of old: "We are not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth, which Thou hast showed unto us." Therefore, "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Rev. 1: 5-6.

The history of St. John's Congregation was compiled by the pastor, the Rev. W. A. Brauer.

PRESENT OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH AND  
ITS SCHOOL AND SOCIETIES

THE CONGREGATION

Pres., R. Siegel; V. Pres., A. Prahlow; Sec., W. Tangerman;  
Treas., M. Freese; Fin. Sec., B. Siegel.

DEACONS

J. Willig, Sr.	A. Prahlow	H. Schlueter	H. Frieske
	B. Siegel	G. Rosenau	

TRUSTEES

J. Wolff	H. Frieske	H. Schlueter
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SCHOOL BOARD

E. Freese	A. Prahlow	J. Wolff
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FINANCE BOARD

J. Hannemann, H. Vonder Here, H. Frieske, F. Bleck, E. Kessler

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CHOIR



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: A. Rippe, E. Rose, K. Fandrei, L. Zarndt,  
L. Brauer, L. Hanneman, G. Vonder Here, D. Koenig.

MIDDLE ROW: E. Koester, A. Freese, L. Boyer, L. Hanneman, B. Schweiger,  
A. Warmber, R. Fandrei, A. Koester.

BACK ROW: F. Bender, B. Siegel, W. Tangerman, R. Awe, W. Mueller,  
T. Hansen, J. Hanneman, G. Rosenau.

## MEN'S CLUB, 1939



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: L. Vonder Here, R. Siegel, G. Rosenau,  
E. Warmber, W. Tangerman.

MIDDLE ROW: B. Siegel, A. Koester, M. Freese, J. Wolff, A. Prahlow,  
Elmer Warmber.

BACK ROW: F. Bleck, W. Schweiger, W. Mueller, A. Pomplin, H. Schlueter,  
A. Masepohl, E. Freese.

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### THE LADIES' AID

Pres., Mrs. M. Prahlow; Vice Pres., Mrs. J. Willig, Sr.;  
Sec., Mrs. V. Pomplin; Treas., Mrs. A. Meyers.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Supt., A. C. Koester; Asst. Supt. and Treas., E. Freese;  
Sec., G. Warner.

### SENIOR WALther LEAGUE

Pres., H. Vonder Here; Vice Pres., R. Helton; Sec., R. Awe;  
Treas., Miss L. Hennig.

### JUNIOR WALther LEAGUE

Pres., Miss L. Hannemann; Vice Pres., A. Leimbach;  
Sec., Miss R. Fandrei; Treas., Miss G. Schroeter.

### MOTHERS' CLUB

Pres., Mrs. A. Leimbach; Vice Pres., Mrs. J. Willig, Jr.;  
Sec., Mrs. M. Leimbach; Treas., Mrs. A. Siegel.

### MEN'S CLUB

Pres., W. Lohmeyer; Vice Pres., A. Prahlow;  
Sec.-Treas., A. Pomplin.

### MISSIONARY ENDEAVOR

Pres., Mrs. A. Freese; Vice Pres., Mrs. Amanda Freese;  
Sec., Mrs. E. Rose; Treas., Mrs. A. Siegel

### CHOIR

Pres., L. Brauer; Sec., G. Vonder Here; Librarian, T. Hansen.

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, 1939



FRONT ROW, Left to Right: P. Klaus, P. Hanneman, G. Vonder Here.  
MIDDLE ROW: C. Wolff, B. Koenig, L. Hanneman, L. Hennig, E. Rose.  
BACK ROW: E. Freese, A. Koester, G. Warner.

# *Services*

## During Anniversary Week

*"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."* — PSALM 118, 24.



### NOVEMBER 12, SUNDAY —

9:30 A. M. — German Jubilee Service

10:45 A. M. — English Jubilee Service  
REV. G. ELBERT, Speaker

7:45 P. M. — English Jubilee Service  
REV. H. B. FEHNER, Speaker

### NOVEMBER 14, TUESDAY —

7:45 P. M. — Young People's Jubilee Service  
REV. W. MARTIN RUPPRECHT, Speaker

### NOVEMBER 16, THURSDAY —

7:45 P. M. — Ladies' Jubilee Service  
REV. A. BRAUER, Speaker

### NOVEMBER 19, SUNDAY —

9:30 A. M. — German Services

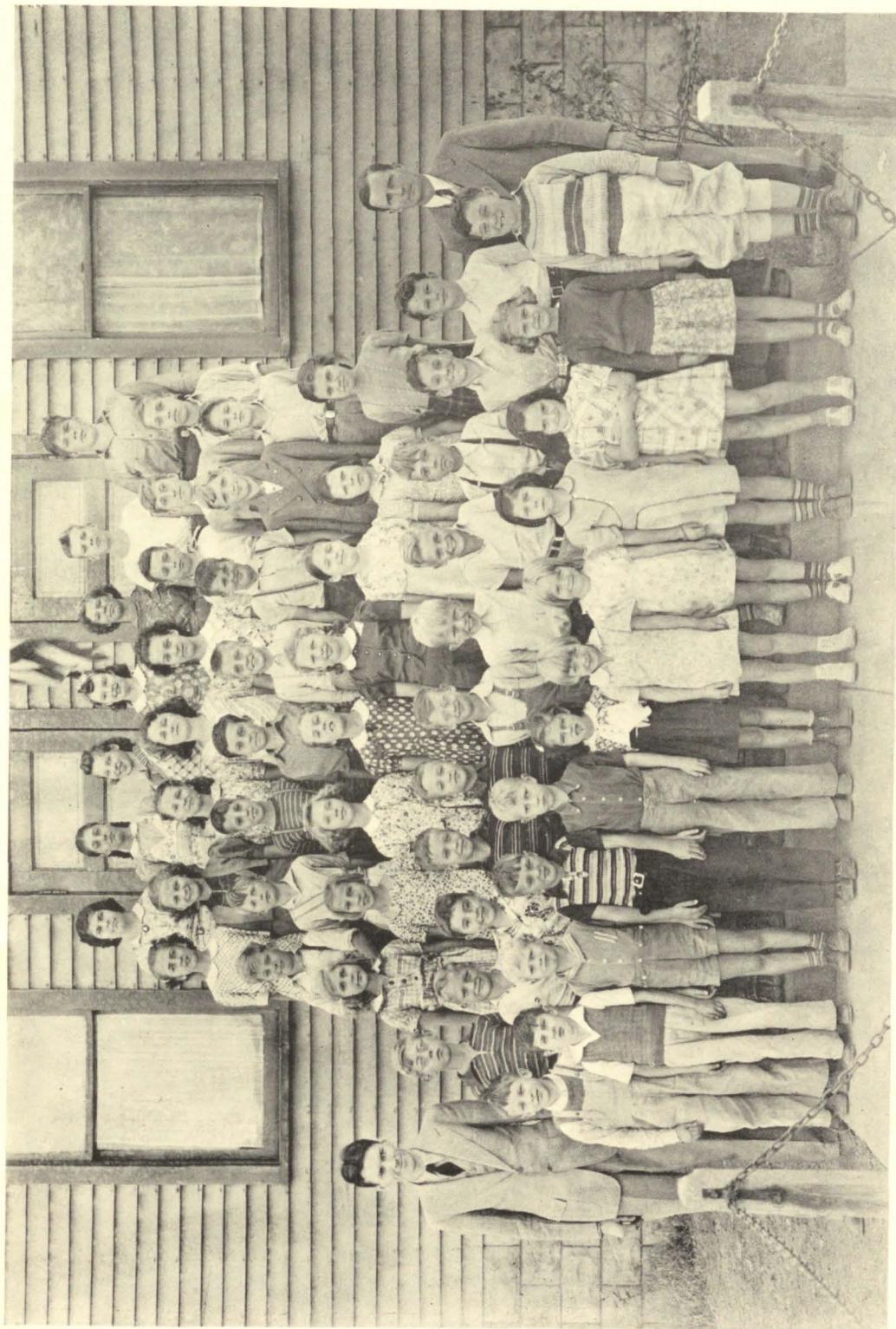
10:45 A. M. — English Services  
DR. W. BAUER, Speaker

7:45 P. M. — Children's Jubilee Service  
REV. EDGAR PFLUG, Speaker

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### 1889 ————— MINISTERIALS ACTS ————— 1939

Baptisms .....	1131
Confirmands .....	520
Marriages .....	148
Burials .....	206



ST. JOHN'S DAY SCHOOL PUPILS, 1939

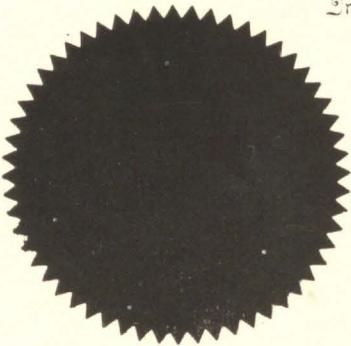
# CERTIFICATE.

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STATE OF INDIANA,) ss:  
Office of the Secretary of State,

I, CHARLES F GRIFFIN, Secretary of State of the State of Indiana, do hereby certify that Louis Normann, Henry Lohse, Herman Grieme, Albert Wolters, and others have this day filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Indiana ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION OF THE UNALTERED AUGSBURG CONFESION, AT NORTH HAMMOND IN LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Indiana, at the City of Indianapolis, this 16th day of September, A. D. 1889



Charles F. Griffin.

SECRETARY OF STATE

